

Message Text

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62-60

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ADP-00 SCA-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 SIL-01

/055 W

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R 241858Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL ST JOHN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 932

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS ST JOHNS 165

E.O. 11652

TAGS: CA, CASC

SUBJ: STRANDED TOURISTS

MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND TOURISTS ARE STRANDED IN NEWFOUNDLAND AS A RESULT OF THE NATIONWIDE WALKOUT. THE FERRY TERMINALS AT PORT AUX BASQUE AND ARGENTIA HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED AS A SCENE OF CHAOS AND TOURISTS AS BEING IN A STATE OF PANIC. SOME TOURISTS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO LEAVE THE ISLAND FOR THE PAST FIVE DAYS BUT HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE OF BACKLOGS AND REGIONAL STRIKES. AT PRESENT THERE ARE MORE THAN 600 CAR LINED UP OVER TWO MILE FROM PORT AUX BASQUE WITH ANOTHER 300 IN THE CN PARKING LOT. RCMP HAVE SET UP ROADBLOCK TO KEEP MORE TOURISTS FROM COMING IN. IN A NUTSHELL, SOME OF THE AMERICAN TOURISTS ARE DIRECTING THEIR ANGER AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL, FEELING THE USG SHOULD SOMEHOW STEP IN AND/OR PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION OFF THE ISLAND.

I SPOKE WITH ACTING PERMIER HICKMAN WHO SAID HE HAS SPENT THE MORNING WITH STRIKE LEADERS. HE IS NOT HOPEFUL THAT ANY SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND IN THE NEXT FOUR OR FIVE DAYS. HE HAS SENT AN URGENT TELEGRAM TO THE PRIME MINISTER, OPENED THE PROVINCIAL PARKS FREE TO TOURISTS. SENT SOCIAL SERVICE PEOPLE TO THE FERRY PORTS TO BE SURE NO ONE IS HUNGRY AND IS TRYING TO GET EXTRA FLIGHTS SCHEDULED TO ACCOMODATE THOSE WHO WOULD WISH TO FLY OUT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AS ALL REGULAR FLIGHTS ALREADY OVERBOOKED.

DOBBS

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